

the symbol of *Mohonk Mountain House*, they were at **Minnewaska**, **Awosting**, and the hills above Ellenville, even on **Terrace Hill** at the southern entrance to the village. Just past the town line to the north, a nice rustic gazebo survives in the garden of an old Dutch stone house and Dutch barn. Recently, similar rustic cedar fencing has been beautifully restored at the *Napanoch Animal Hospital*.

I love seeing pitch pines, mountain laurel, and wild rhododendron along the mountain roads. Native Catskill and Shawangunk plants and rustic-style structures can be used in landscape architecture around buildings, in parks, and at the village and town entrances, to reinforce our recreational gateway image. Gateway architecture and signage (like you might see in a national park) tells visitors that we value our natural resources, and will protect them. I hope that as new businesses come here, visionary businessmen and women will adopt the gateway strategy. Indeed, let's work proactively to attract creative entrepreneurs, those who would come here to create a good life for themselves and their new neighbors.

The *Ellenville-Wawarsing Chamber of Commerce* is supporting a plan to create a Market Square in the center of Ellenville. Landscape architect Barbara Restaino has created a plan for a public space that can serve as a business incubator and a place for community bake sales and festivals. Rustic benches & fencing and new plantings & lamp-posts would define the square. I'd like to see benches like these for our hikers along the **D&H Canal /O&W Rail Trail**, and more rustic fencing and rustic summer houses along the **Shawangunk Mountains Scenic Byway (Rte. 209)**.

There are some exciting plans for new construction in Ellenville, which may include a new village hall, shops, and a new firehouse. What better time to give our Town a sense of place... the look and feel of a recreational gateway community? Our **Route 209** corridor has been referred to as nondescript, with generic-looking buildings that could be anywhere.

How about an architectural style that reflects our Dutch heritage, like the **Ellenville Post Office**? Or one that combines Dutch Colonial stone with the massive timbers of National Park-style architecture? Something that looks like it *belongs* here in this beautiful mountain setting, and will entice travelers

to explore and discover all our village has to offer. On the other side of the mountain, a big land-owner has a vision of a *gated* community of Adirondack-style houses for the affluent. It would make thousands of acres inaccessible to the public, forever. It would spread development up into the fragile environment of the ridge, when we already have homes right here in Ellenville for those who want to live near the mountain.

Let's get out in front of the development and plan our own future. Ellenville and Wawarsing can become the rustic gateway to the public lands of the people of New York State, where everyone is welcome to live in and visit our little village... *YOUR Home in the Mountains.*



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